

IN THE LIMELIGHT

SCOTT IS RESOURCEFUL



Congressman Frank D. Scott of Michigan is a man of resourcefulness and capabilities. He was resourceful even back in the days when he was a mere college student. There was a certain course of study Scott was pursuing under the direction of a professor whom we may call Hicks. Examination season approached and it occurred to Scott that he knew only in a very general and sketchy way the things he might be called upon by Hicks to write down on paper. Moreover, he had a feeling that he was not personally popular with Hicks.

The situation seemed extremely grave to Scott, and he cast about for some way in which to ingratiate himself on Hicks. After a careful inquiry in Hicks' habits he found that the professor passed the collection plate in a small church. Scott began to attend that church. For three consecutive Sundays—the three prior to the Hicks' collection territory. When Hicks came to his seat, Scott rather ostentatiously dropped a large silver dollar into the plate with a loud noise. Each Sunday, mind you, for three weeks he borrowed a dollar and did that. Then he went to his examination and slipped through by a narrow but safe margin. And he never found out whether he got through owing to his store of information on the subject or his vulgar display of wealth and generosity.

TOO MUCH FOR UNTERMYER

Samuel Untermyer, Bethlehem steel prince, Wall street attorney and steel-trust and money-devil hunter, was once counsel for the Pujo money-trust committee of the house.

There were a lot of witnesses before that committee, and many of them were intensely hostile to Mr. Untermyer. One of these was President Hine of the First National bank of New York. He was just as good a dodger as Mr. Untermyer was a questioner. Mr. Untermyer asked a question about a mile long and Mr. Hine made a reply that would have reached from New York to Oshkosh. Then Mr. Untermyer asked another question, endeavoring to get Mr. Hine down to a simple answer. Mr. Hine delivered another long answer, which looked the same upside down, right side up, backward or forward.



About half an hour was consumed in this banter and Untermyer grew peevish. "I would like the witness to be made to answer 'yes' or 'no,'" Mr. Untermyer demanded, "and I would like the committee to explain its rights." Chairman Pujo then delivered an oration, in which he said in substance that the witness must make a definite answer or decline to answer at all. "All right," said Hine, "I'll try to answer your question. What was it?" Mr. Untermyer tried to ask it all over. He stumbled on the second sentence and then said: "Let the stenographer read the question." At that point the stenographer arose and said: "The other fellow took that part of the testimony and has just left the building to go downtown and transcribe it. I just came in." Mr. Untermyer knitted his brows together in deep thought. Then he said: "The witness is excused."

FINANCIER OF YUCATAN



Dr. Victor L. Rendon of Yucatan, statesman and financier, probably will be selected by General Carranza as head of a special financial commission invested with authority to conduct preliminary negotiations for a foreign loan for Mexico, according to reports from Mexico City.

Doctor Rendon successfully negotiated recently a \$10,000,000 loan with American bankers for the Yucatan farmers' sisal marketing system. He is a native of Yucatan and a graduate of the universities of Mexico and Paris, and won an enviable reputation among his competitors by the ease and success with which he handled the sisal loan. Doctor Rendon was one of the pioneers in the fight for the establishment of a democratic government in Mexico. He conducted an active propaganda against the Porfirio Diaz government and gave his support to the Madero revolution. For a time he was secretary of state in Yucatan. Because of his knowledge of American ideals and customs and an extended residence in the United States he has been enabled on several occasions to render valuable service to the Carranza government.

JOHN C. EVERSMAN

John C. Eversman will have a large part in the work of directing the publicity propaganda of the Republicans during the coming presidential campaign. Mr. Eversman has had long experience in politics and in what might be called political publicity. For a long time he has been the confidential associate of Representative William B. McKinley of Illinois.

During the various periods of time that Mr. McKinley was connected with the Republican congressional campaign committee in one or another official capacity, Mr. Eversman worked with him side by side. Between campaigns their association continued. In fact, Mr. McKinley and Mr. Eversman have been bound together by ties of labor and friendship for a great many years.

Four years ago William B. McKinley took charge of William H. Taft's campaign for the nomination for the presidency. At that time Mr. Eversman was with him as he had been with him before and has been with him since. It is understood that the Republicans intend to do much along publicity lines between now and next November. Mr. Eversman will have much work to do, but he will be equal to it. He is a member of the National Press club in Washington and is a great favorite with newspaper men through the country. He has spent most of his time in the city of Washington in the last ten or fifteen years.



SUCCESSFUL BOY FARMERS

By MELVIN RYDER.

D EWEY HANES is my hero." That's what Gov. Frank B. Willis of Ohio said about the seventeen-year-old corn and wheat champion grower of the Buckeye state, after hearing the boy tell over a thousand farmers how they ought to go about raising corn and wheat in order to get three and four times as large yields per acre at much less cost per bushel and much greater profits per acre.

The secret of the success of the boys' and girls' club work and the dozen different projects which the "farmers of the future" are carrying on so successfully is to be found in Governor Willis' five-worded remark. The boys who are showing the men how to farm are the heroes of the agricultural world of today. They are the evangelists who are carrying the gospel of better farming into every section of the state and showing their fathers and mothers how to farm better and how to live better on the farms.

The United States department of agriculture is in charge of this work. Their experts have built up a national organization with each state and county as a unit, and their paid agents are in charge of the details of organization and tabulation of all the work that has been done and is to be done. The season of 1916 is now under way, and even the most optimistic in charge hesitate to predict how far the boys and girls will go before the season's results are known in solving the problems before the farmers of today and leading these same farmers into the bigger and happier farming life that is possible through the use of better methods and the gaining of better crops of higher quality and market value.

Not many years ago a Southern lad, Jerry Moore, startled the entire country by growing more corn on one acre than many farmers are now growing on ten acres. Newspapers and magazines throughout the country commented on his excellent work, and predicted that farmers would find that they might also grow larger and better quality crops if they would follow his methods. They did not realize until after the next season just what this boy's achievement was worth to the country, not until they learned that the entire South was following Jerry Moore and growing more corn that sold for millions of dollars.

Each year the work of the boys and girls has grown, and the end is farther than ever away. The boys have been specializing in growing crops and live stock, the girls in tending gardens, canning farm products and studying home economics and better home-life. In numbers the boys and girls are several times greater than the standing army of the United States. In enthusiasm they are far ahead of any other organized body in the world. In importance and in recorded results the world has never seen the equal of the same boys and girls. And the season of 1916 has just opened—the season that is certain to double or triple in results the last and greatest season of 1915.

To best understand what the boys and girls found when they started their work, it is necessary to look back through the centuries and see how the science of farming began. The occupation of farming is one of the oldest in the history of the world. When men knew little else, they knew how to plant seed and reap a harvest that was sufficient for their daily needs. During many centuries, the farmer was a plodder, who worked that he and his family might exist. Probably he found little joy and happiness in his work. The production of life in a seed was a mystery to him, and he accepted the mystery without trying to solve it. It was enough that the plant grow and produced fruit, and the early farmer never asked himself how he could treat his soil and the seed so that it would produce twofold instead of one. There was plenty of land, and so when one field did not produce well, he moved to another field or region, and did not bother about the first area.

There came a time, however, when his soil became barren in great areas. The seed no longer grew as it had and the plants were weak and the fruit of little value. Then it was that science stepped in and the really scientific farming had a start. Science showed that soil that had been cropped until it was partly worn out could be restored to its productive ability by the return of the elements that had been removed. Science showed the farmer that the soil was a live thing and that the life in the soil must be maintained. It examined the roots of the plants and studied the way that the plant transforms the raw materials in the soil into the finished product of the fruit of the plant. It found that some plants had nodules on their roots that were filled with bacteria which had the power to take up nitrogen from the air, and it found many other truths that have since been the basis for much of the work done by agricultural teachers.

During the last ten years the advance of the science of farming has been very rapid, but the practical application by the farmers of the principles and practices that have been proved valuable has not kept pace with the discoveries. It is the boys and girls who are catching up, and therein is the explanation of the results that they have been getting. Their parents might have done the same things, but they did not. The boys who are growing corn started where their fathers left off and put into practice the teaching that the fathers considered impractical theories. In most cases the parents kept their hands off, so far as the boys' acres were concerned. Many of them were suspicious of the entire work, and were content to let their boys enter because they thought that would be the best way for the "young 'uns" to be

HE country lads and lassies, are the nation's hope of future prosperity and strength



kept on the farms and contented. Now the attitude has been changed and the parents are as deeply interested as the boys and girls themselves, and in many states and sections the parents and children are contesting between themselves in order to see which can grow the bigger crops. A notable instance of this was shown in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where two years ago the boys beat the parents by a wide margin in the production of corn per acre, but where last year the parents "came back" by making their acres yield more than the acres tilled by the boys. This year the boys have put their heads together and have their plans laid to win back the records.

Rapid as has been the advance of agriculture during the last ten years, the future is going to be filled with more wonderful revelations, through the work of the boys and girls and the inspiration that their work has been upon the farmers of today. If in the last ten years a farm has been able to produce double its former crops, the next ten years it will produce four times as much per acre with proper soil treatment and cultivation. On the acre of ground that last year yielded 200 bushels of potatoes, 400 and 600 bushels will be raised, because the boys have demonstrated that such yields can be produced. Over in the field where 30 bushels of corn was considered a good crop—in a state where the average yield was only a few bushels more per acre—at least 90 to 100 bushels per acre will be raised in the future, because such boys as Dewey Hanes of Ohio raised 153.7 bushels per acre, and the winners in some other states outgrow him.

"True education" is the basis for the work that the boys and girls are doing. The clubs are the mediums of practical instruction in the common duties of the farm and farm homes. The boys are taught better methods of farming, and the girls are taught better home methods. The agricultural colleges and experiment stations are finding that the boys and girls are better teachers and more practical experimenters because they are carrying the entire country with them toward better farming and better living on the farm. The "old folks" are learning the value of crop rotation, the use of fertilizers and manures, the need of proper tillage, good seed, and the other factors that enter into the efficient management of the soil and the farm.

How can the parents help the boys and girls—is the question being asked the leaders in the club work by farmers in every section of the United States. Parents can and should help by encouraging them to enter the contests and organized clubs, and allowing the children the time from regular work with farm chores to tend their own plots of ground. The children should feel that they are partners on the farms.

Parents, think what this work means to you before you refuse to help. You don't want your children to have the same hardships, the same toll with little to show for the years spent such as many of you have had in the past. You don't want your children to have the same discouragements because of seasons when the crops were poor and the market prices were low. You don't want your children leaving the farms and taking up lines of work that are less profitable, healthful and productive of happiness.

You cannot afford to refuse your support and your co-operation during the coming season. From a financial reason alone—if for no higher reason—you cannot afford to go on with the same methods that you have been using in growing your crops and getting only half the yields that you should receive.

If your boys can raise four times as much corn

as you, or even twice as much per acre, you cannot afford to refuse to use their methods next season in growing your crops. If your boys can make twice as much money from one acre as you, are you going to be content to go on as you have been doing and let your children lose confidence in your farming knowledge and ability? Decidedly, you cannot afford it.

Let's see how the boys are getting their record yields. Take Jerry Moore of South Carolina, Dewey Hanes of Ohio, and Marius Malgren of Virginia—three of the most successful of the thousands of boys who have been showing present-day farmers how to farm. Study their own accounts of how they produced their crops and you will find that they tested their seed corn, they used the best seed corn that they could get, they prepared their seedbeds carefully and thoroughly, so that the young plants would have the very best opportunities to grow quickly and mature within the limits of their growing seasons.

They knew that the plants had to be fed, and they used manures and fertilizers liberally. Thousands of other boys did the same. They wouldn't try to raise such yields without feeding their crops, any more than their parents would try to secure milk from their dairy cows without feeding the cows properly. They cultivate their fields carefully in order to kill the weeds and conserve the moisture for the growing plants. They gave a little more time to the acre and they reaped much greater crops as results.

Nothing wonderful about all this. You say that these principles have been known and practiced for years. Certainly. The boys have made use of principles that have been known for scores of years, but they have not merely accepted the principles and then gone about their farming operations, leaving their knowledge as some men do their Sunday clothes and their religion—hung up in closets and forgotten after Sunday is past.

The boys didn't go at farming in a slipshod, halfway fashion, such as many farmers have been doing right along. They were not content to practice only one of the factors and disregard the others. They practiced them all together on their acre fields, and the results speak in a way that cannot be misunderstood. They didn't dump on some manure and leave the other factors to luck.

They used manure and fertilizer, and they used the best seed and the best methods of preparing the land before the seed was planted and the best tillage methods afterwards. The fertilizer they used gave the crops the early start, and the maturity that makes quality and quantity, and they escaped the "soft" corn that their parents found in many fields where little or no attention had been given to soil and plant-food management.

Boys and girls, you have a right to be proud of the work you have done. You have a right to expect the co-operation of your parents and of the farmers in your community, and you are going to get it this year and in coming years. You have the government back of you, and it is spending thousands of dollars in each state so that you can add to the productive wealth of your state millions of dollars in added yields of crops that have higher market values. You boys are to be the farmers of the future and you are to find great joy and happiness in your work. You girls will some day preside over farm homes that will be happier because you have learned to bake and cook and can, and keep the house neat and tidy and homelike, and make farm-life happier for your family. None of you is too young to begin, for before you know it you will be out of school, young men and women, making your own way in life.